

VZCZCXRO9713
RR RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHJA #1839 3091041
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 051041Z NOV 09
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3729
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS COLL
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 8895
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 4203
RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI 1053
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS JAKARTA 001839

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR OES AND EAP
COMMERCE FOR NOAA
USAID FOR ANE,EEGAT
BANGKOK FOR RDM/A

E.O. 12598: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [EAID](#) [EFIS](#) [TBIO](#) [PREL](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: New Fisheries Minister Enthusiastic About U.S.-Indonesia

Collaboration

REF: JAKARTA 1473

¶1. On November 4, newly-appointed Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Fadel Muhammad highlighted marine research and human resource development as two key areas for increased U.S.-Indonesian collaboration. Speaking with Ambassador Hume, Muhammad cited the planned voyage of NOAA's Okeanos Explorer to Indonesia, and U.S. support of the Coral Triangle Initiative, as concrete examples of partnership. He reiterated President Yudhoyono's full support for the ship's research voyage next June, and expressed an interest in visiting the ship together with Ambassador Hume. Muhammad was pleased to hear of NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco's planned visit to Indonesia. He hoped Lubchenco's visit next January would further strengthen NOAA's existing partnership with his ministry.

¶2. In connection with the Okeanos Explorer, Muhammad noted that we know far more about terrestrial than marine biodiversity. As a scuba diver, Muhammad recognized the significance of Indonesia's incredible marine biodiversity. He agreed that marine research and work on sustainable fisheries management were of crucial importance to food security for tens of millions of Indonesians. Muhammad was enthusiastic about a possible joint Center for Sustainable Ocean Fisheries (reftel), and suggested this was something which he and Dr. Lubchenco could "make happen" during her January visit.

¶3. This two-time Governor of Gorontalo Province assured Ambassador Hume that he would highlight both the Okeanos Explorer and the potential joint fisheries center to President Yudhoyono during a cabinet meeting on November 5.

HUME